

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 EUR-25 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

DPW-01 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 010554

O 231043 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2058

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9079

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-23 MAY 73

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 23
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0140

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT LOW LEVEL DURING 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS MAY 23. THERE WERE 12 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED: THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), EIGHT GROUND CONTACTS, AND ONE MINING. TOTAL CASUALTIES WERE ONE RVNAF KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED, AND 13 NVA/ VC KILLED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 50 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE; NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT WAS AN RF PATROL CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE SEVEN KM NORTH OF BEN LUC DISTRICT TOWN, LONG AN PROVINCE. ONE RF WAS KILLED, AND ONE WOUNDED; AMONG 12 COMMUNISTS KIA WERE A DEPUTY BATTALION COMMANDER AND A COMPANY COMMANDER OF SR-6.

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3. MINOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN BIEN HOA, BINH DUONG, TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA AND PHUOC LONG PROVINCES.

4. CANDEL TOLD CONGEN THIS MORNING THAT ICCS CHOPPERS TOOK OFF FROM REGION V JMC PAD FOR LOC NINH TODAY AT 1015 TO BEGIN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED US BOMBING OF NORTHERN LOC NINH DISTRICT, BINH LONG (SEE OUR 138). CHOPPERS CONTAINED PRG LIEUTENANT COLONEL, MAJOR, AND CAPTAIN FROM TPJMC IN SAIGON; THREE RVNAF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TPJMC V, OF RANK DELIBERATELY EQUIVALENT TO THE OF PRG; THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL FOUR ICCS V CHIP DELEGATIONS; AND THREE CANADIAN JOURNALISTS. DEPARTURE OF SHOPPERS FROM SAIGON WAS DELAYED BY LATE ARRIVAL OF PRG LIAISON OFFICERS. IN BIEN HOA, ORIGINALLY MANIFESTED POLISH INTERPRETER, WHO HAS NEVER BEFORE FLOWN IN A HELICOPTER, REFUSED TO GO; HE WAS REPLACED AND BANISHED TO BEN CAT TEAM.

5. CANDEL SAID INVESTIGATION WAS OPEN-ENDED, AND HE WAS NOT SURE WHEN INVESTIGATORS WOULD RETURN TO BIEN HOA. HE THOUGHT THAT PRG, WHO HAD REQUESTED INVESTIGATION AND GIVEN WRITTEN SECURITY GUARANTEES, WOULD PROBABLY BE ON BEST BEHAVIOR.

6. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING COURTESY CALL OF INDODEL HEAD GENERAL DHARSONO, TOLD CONGEN THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE DHARSONO VISIT. ACCORDING TO MINH, DHARSONO HAD INDICATED THAT INDONESIA IS COMMITTED TO THE GVN CAUSE AND THAT THE INDONESIANS, THOUGH GROWING IMPATIENT WITH POLGARIAN TACTICS, WHICH HE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED AS "WRECKING THE PEACE," WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITHIN THE ICCS FRAMEWORK. SIGNED WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON09079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730552/aaaajpvy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980227
Subject: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-23 MAY 73 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 23 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE BIEN HOA 0140
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT
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JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005